

# River Road Landfill

## **EPA Region 3**

Pennsylvania

Mercer County

South Pymatuning and

Hermitage Townships

**EPA ID#** PAD000439083

**3rd** Congressional District

## **Last Update:**

August 2002

## **Other Names:**

River Road

Enterprises

Erie Disposal

Company

## **Current Site Status**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) successfully negotiated a consent decree with potentially responsible parties concerning continued operation and maintenance of remedial actions taken under a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) landfill closure plan. Continued operation and maintenance of the closure plan requirements is required by an EPA Record of Decision (ROD) signed in 1995.

## **Site Description**

The River Road Landfill site located in Mercer County, Pennsylvania (11th Congressional District), is a 102-acre inactive landfill that operated from 1962 until 1986. The landfill accepted municipal and industrial wastes, including foundry and metal processing waste,

polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) wastes, asbestos, and residues from tank car cleaning. Ownership of the landfill has been transferred over the years. The current owner, Waste Management of Pennsylvania, Inc. purchased it in 1980. Although Waste Management considered using the landfill for the disposal of hazardous wastes, only non-hazardous industrial wastes were disposed of. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) has fined the company for several waste disposal violations, including discharging leachate into surface waters and operating a solid waste disposal area without a permit. The facility received a permit in 1984 for solid waste disposal but stopped receiving waste in May 1986. PADEP approved closure activities in 1987 were comprehensive, and the site now is fenced, and access is restricted. Approximately 4,500 people live within a mile of the site, and 9,000 people live within three miles. The closest residents live less than one-half mile away. Two sedimentation ponds catch runoff from the site. These ponds have controlled spillways draining into the Shenango River, which is located next to the landfill's southern border. This river is a water source for 75,000 industrial, commercial, and residential customers in Pennsylvania and Ohio, and the Shenango Valley Water Company's water intake is two miles downstream of the site.

### **Site Responsibility**


This site is being addressed through federal and potentially responsible parties' actions.

### **NPL Listing History**

Our country's most serious, uncontrolled, or abandoned hazardous waste sites can be cleaned using federal money. To be eligible for federal cleanup money, a site must be put on the National Priorities List. This site was proposed to the list on January 22, 1987 and formally added to the list October 4, 1989.

## **Threats and Contaminants**

The groundwater is contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from wastes disposed of at the landfill. Soil on site contains detectable amounts of PCBs and other phenolic compounds. People may be at risk if they accidentally ingest or come in direct contact with contaminated groundwater or soil.

Contaminant descriptions and associated risk factors are available on the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, an arm of the CDC, web site at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hazdat.html> 

## Cleanup Progress

In 1987, Waste Management of Pennsylvania carried out a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) approved landfill closure program that entailed placing a cap over the landfill to keep rainwater and runoff from spreading contaminants, installing a leachate collection system and a ground water dam, controlling erosion and sedimentation, revegetating the site, and fencing the area.

EPA and Waste Management signed a consent order in 1990, in which the company agreed to conduct an intensive study of problems at the site. The investigation explored the nature and extent of contamination and recommended the best approaches for final cleanup. The EPA Record of Decision (ROD), completed in 1995, specifies continued operation and maintenance of the remedial activities completed under the PADEP closure plan, and implementation of deed restrictions at the site as the selected remedy for final site cleanup. A Consent Decree requiring the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) to implement deed restrictions and operation and maintenance of the selected remedies was entered in February 2000. An Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) was signed, on May 6, 1999, which changed the identified cost of the selected remedy from \$10,000 to \$2,597,602.77. The change in remedy cost was reflective of the inclusion of the cost associated with operation and maintenance of the remedial activities completed under the PADEP closure plan. These costs were not included in the original ROD.

## Contacts

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Detailed public files (Administrative Record) on EPA's actions and decisions for this site can be examined at the following locations:

Buhl-Henderson Community Library

11 North Sharpsville Avenue

Sharon, PA 16146

U.S. EPA Region III

6th Floor Docket Room

1650 Arch Street.

Philadelphia, PA 191073

215-814-3157

Please call to schedule an appointment.